



Department of Homeland Security Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 03 January 2007

Current
Nationwide
Threat Level is

ELEVATED
SIGNIFICANT RISK OF
TERRORIST ATTACKS

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Daily Highlights

- The Associated Press reports utility crews are continuing the effort to restore electrical service to tens of thousands of homes and businesses in Colorado and Kansas after a snowstorm last week; it could take more than a week to get them all back on line. (See item [2](#))
- CBS4 reports a 20-year-old Wyoming man tried to open the door of a JetBlue plane while flying from Pittsburgh toward Boston, on Monday morning, January 1; he was subdued by passengers and flight attendants. (See item [16](#))
- The Associated Press reports the government and the produce industry will issue new guidelines in April on how to prevent contamination throughout the food chain, seeking to avoid future E. coli food poisoning outbreaks involving spinach and lettuce. (See item [23](#))
- The Times Argus reports that as of Monday, January 1, Vermont leads the country in emergency response systems, implementing a new enhanced 911 system, E911, completely based upon Internet technology. (See item [35](#))

DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report Fast Jump

Production Industries: [Energy](#); [Chemical Industry and Hazardous Materials](#); [Defense Industrial Base](#)

Service Industries: [Banking and Finance](#); [Transportation and Border Security](#); [Postal and Shipping](#)

Sustenance and Health: [Agriculture](#); [Food](#); [Water](#); [Public Health](#)

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Energy Sector

Current Electricity Sector Threat Alert Levels: Physical: ELEVATED, Cyber: ELEVATED

Scale: LOW, GUARDED, ELEVATED, HIGH, SEVERE [Source: ISAC for the Electricity Sector (ES-ISAC) – <http://www.esisac.com>]

1. *January 02, Click2Houston* — **Wreck causes natural gas pipeline explosion.** Flames from a natural gas pipeline explosion lit up the sky in northwest Harris County, TX, after a vehicle ended up in a gas field on Monday, January 1. Ponderosa Fire Department officials said the explosion was the result of a collision between two vehicles on Kuykendahl Road near F.M. 1960. One of the vehicles landed on a pipeline's relief valve at the Bammel Gas Field. "The car flipped over the fence, landed on top of the meter station and took out a relief valve," Lt. David Paige said. The sound and flames from the explosion were so intense that it was originally reported as a plane crash. Officials said the flames were 60 to 70 feet high. The drivers of both vehicles were able to walk away from the wreckage with only minor injuries.
Source: <http://www.click2houston.com/news/10650959/detail.html>
2. *January 01, Associated Press* — **Crews seek to restore power after storm.** Utility crews struggled to restore electrical service to tens of thousands of homes and businesses in Colorado and Kansas on Monday, January 1. The storm, which struck on Thursday, had dwindled to a line of heavy rainfall Monday along the East Coast, but a few roads in southeastern Colorado and western Kansas were still choked by snow. On Monday, about 60,000 homes and businesses elsewhere in western Kansas still had no power, a state spokesperson said, and utility officials said it could take more than a week to get them all back on line. "We've gotten three inches of ice on wires and connectors, and that ice stays there until it gets above freezing," said Al Butkus, spokesperson for the Kansas utility Aquila Inc. Utility crews in the Oklahoma Panhandle had restored power to five whole towns blacked out by the storm, the state Department of Emergency Management said Monday. Up to 6,000 customers still had no power Monday, mostly in rural areas. No widespread outages were reported in Colorado.
Source: <http://www.kansascity.com/mld/kansascity/news/local/16359787 .htm>
3. *January 01, Associated Press* — **Thousands of Nebraskans remain without power.** Nebraska Public Power District (NPPD) officials were estimating Monday, January 1, that as many as 15,000 power customers were still without electricity. NPPD President and CEO Ron Asche said crews were working around-the-clock to restore power from the weekend storm but also that returning to normal will take time. Most of the power outages were reported in central and northeastern Nebraska. In Kearney, NPPD had restored power to all but about 500 customers. Power had been restored to much of Minden and Lexington. "Our system is so fragile right now with our transmission system..." said NPPD's Stan Clouse. In northeast Nebraska, Antelope, Boone, Knox, Pierce and Madison counties were hit especially hard by ice. Hundreds of power poles were knocked down in those counties, and widespread power outages were reported. In Battle Creek, Elkhorn Rural Public Power District was struggling with downed lines and poles. About 4,100 of its 8,700 customers still were without power Monday afternoon, said Terry Carson, the district general manager. Two of the district's three transmission systems were down, including about 11 miles of transmission lines. He estimated it would be two to three weeks before power was restored to all of the district's rural customers.
Source: <http://www.kansas.com/mld/kansas/news/state/16362564.htm>
4. *December 31, Associated Press* — **Russia, Belarus sign gas contract, averting shutoff that could have affected Western Europe.** Belarus and Russia's natural gas monopoly signed a five-year contract for gas supplies early Monday, just hours before Russia had threatened to cut off supplies in a rate hike dispute. Under the agreement, Belarus will pay US\$100 per 1,000 cubic meters in 2007. That is slightly more than double the US\$47 Belarus paid in 2006. The

agreement came after days of increasingly heated discussions that culminated in a session lasting until nearly midnight Sunday, December 31. The contract locks Belarus into agreeing to pay increasing prices over the subsequent four years of the agreement. The threatened Russian cutoff had raised concerns in Western Europe about a possible reduction in those countries supplies of Russian gas, much of which reaches Europe through pipelines that cross Belarus. Gazprom had warned Belarus not to siphon gas from the Russian-owned Yamal–Europe pipeline, which carries about two-thirds of the some 44 billion cubic meters of gas that transits Belarus annually en route to Europe — mainly Germany, Poland and Lithuania.

Source: http://www.usatoday.com/news/world/2006-12-31-russia-belarus-gas_x.htm

5. *December 31, Associated Press* — **Divers seal off pipeline that spilled oil into Gulf of Mexico.** Divers found and sealed the seaward end of a broken offshore oil pipeline Sunday morning, December 31, but not before an estimated 44,500 gallons of oil leaked into the Gulf of Mexico, the U.S. Coast Guard said. The spill occurred after a portion of the High Island Pipeline System ruptured last Sunday, December 24. The pipeline's owner, Houston-based Plains All American Pipeline LP, shut down the line after detecting a pressure loss in the system. Plains Pipeline spokesperson Jordan Janak said last week it appeared the pipeline broke when it was struck by the anchor of a ship trying to moor in the area, where the water is about 90 feet deep. Greg Pollock of the Oil Spill Prevention and Response Program in the Texas General Land Office said his office typically responds to between 900 and 1,000 spills off the Texas coast each year, most smaller than the Plains Pipeline spill.

Source: http://www.iht.com/articles/ap/2006/12/31/business/NA_FIN_US_Oil_Spill.php

6. *December 31, News Journal (DE)* — **Blaze at Valero refinery quickly contained.** A dozen fire companies from the Delaware City area responded late Friday night, December 29, to a fire in a small production unit at the Valero refinery off Delaware 9. Lisa Lindsey, a spokesperson for the refinery, said the fire broke out at about 11 p.m. EST Friday in a polymerization unit and was quickly isolated and contained by the company's fire brigade. She said there were no injuries and all employees had been accounted for. Fire and police officials in New Castle County could not confirm Valero's reports about the nature of the fire, or any actions taken by local companies on the scene. The refinery, located on 5,000 acres, processes 180,000 barrels a day of oil, producing a variety of products, including gasoline.

Source: <http://www.delawareonline.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20061231/NEWS/612310355/-1/NEWS01>

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Chemical Industry and Hazardous Materials Sector

7. *December 28, Associated Press* — **Acidic water spills at Agrium Inc. plant in Idaho.** Enough acid-laced water to fill more than five Olympic-sized swimming pools breached a berm at an eastern Idaho fertilizer manufacturer, inundating a nearby farmer's field, authorities said Thursday, December 28. No injuries were reported. The accident early Wednesday prompted officials at Calgary, Alberta-based Agrium Inc.'s plant about 10 miles north of Soda Springs to call in clean-up consultants who work on railroad spills, as well as state and federal environmental officials, to survey the scene. The 3.5 million gallons of acidic water that gushed over the protective berm surrounding a 20- to 30-foot-high storage area is used to turn ore

from the nearby Rasmussen Ridge mine into phosphoric acid. The water normally carries the waste product "phosphogypsum" from the processing plant to the gypsum stack before being recycled, but something happened to damage a 16-inch by 20-foot section of the surrounding berm, causing the liquid to gush as far away from the plant as a quarter-mile.

Source: <http://www.businessweek.com/ap/financialnews/D8MA4K2O0.htm>

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

8. *January 01, National Defense* — **Marine Corps' vision for the future requires more training, technology.** Beginning this month, the Marine Corps will start testing a new war-fighting concept aimed at countering unconventional enemies. The technologies that would support it, however, are lagging, officials said. The goal is to disperse small units that would maneuver relatively independently, much like special operations teams. The Marine Corps calls this concept "distributed operations," and is seeking to incorporate it into its war-fighting doctrine. "Distributed operations are going to enhance our capabilities to be able to influence the action on the ground," said Lt. Gen. Jan Huly, Marine Corps deputy commandant of plans, policy and operations. Officials envision that distributed operators will be physically separated throughout geographic locations as large as the southern Pacific, but will be tactically unified through networks. To turn the concept into reality will require substantial investments in communications gear, weapons and training, said Huly. In current operations, communications assets have often been inadequate, said Brig. Gen. Joseph Dunford Jr., director of the Marine Corps operations division at the plans, policy and operations directorate. "Our capabilities and the equipment that we have out there in the operating forces are not what they need to be for the current fight," he said.

Source: <http://www.nationaldefensemagazine.org/issues/2007/January/MarineCorps.htm>

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Banking and Finance Sector

9. *December 31, Associated Press* — **Misprinted labels stir identity theft fears.** Wisconsin Department of Revenue said Friday, December 29, that it sent as many as 170,000 forms to taxpayers with mailing labels mistakenly printed with their Social Security numbers. The department was scrambling to alert taxpayers to be on the lookout for the mailings to prevent any chance of identity theft. The misprinted labels, blamed on a computer error during preparation, went to taxpayers who have used the basic long paper form, according to the department.

Source: <http://www.buffalonews.com/editorial/20061231/5056901.asp>

10. *December 29, Lansing State Journal (MI)* — **Hundreds across U.S. might have lost nearly \$400,000 in online scheme.** A 39-year-old Lansing, MI, man has been charged in connection with an Internet scam that authorities say might have defrauded hundreds of people across the country out of nearly \$400,000. Kendall Allen Brown is charged with possession of counterfeit documents, Ingham County Undersheriff Matthew Myers said Thursday, December 28. The

U.S. Secret Service confirmed the fraud affected hundreds throughout the country, but an actual dollar amount has yet to be determined, Myers said. Most of the victims were not in Michigan. The Secret Service is continuing to investigate whether others might have been involved in the scheme. Authorities said victims were contacted by e-mail and told they would receive a fee for depositing money orders and/or traveler's checks into their bank accounts. The money orders and traveler's checks were fake, but banks did not realize it immediately. Victims then were told to withdraw cash and send it to an address in the United States. Brown sent at least 120 packages via FedEx, authorities said. Each contained an average of about \$2,000 to \$2,500 in counterfeit checks or money orders.

Source: <http://www.lsj.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20061229/NEWS01/612290333/1001/opinion>

11. *December 28, Websense Security Labs* — **Phishing Alert: Andover State Bank.** Websense Security Labs has received reports of a phishing attack that targets customers of Andover State Bank, which is based in Kansas. Users receive a spoofed e-mail message, which claims that their account will be suspended unless it is updated. The e-mail provides a link to a phishing site that attempts to collect account information.

Source: <http://www.websense.com/securitylabs/alerts/>

12. *December 28, Federal Computer Week* — **Coast Guard mandates e-mail phishing training.**

The Coast Guard is ordering all personnel connected to its network to take mandatory training on how to avoid fake e-mail messages that try to acquire sensitive data through phishing and even more highly targeted attacks known as spear phishing. Last month, the Department of Defense mandated that all its personnel take spear phishing awareness training by January 17. The Coast Guard is requiring the same of all Coast Guard personnel who connect to the service's network over Standard Work Station III (SW III) computers, according to a December 21 message sent to all personnel. All active-duty, reserve and auxiliary personnel and those who use SW II terminals are required to take the mandatory phishing training. Contractors who use SW III workstations are also required to take the training.

Source: <http://www.fcw.com/article97216-12-28-06-Web>

13. *January 01, Post and Courier (SC)* — **South Carolina credit union gets high-tech with its ATMs.** South Carolina Federal Credit Union is installing advanced technology machines at branches across the state. Two-sided images of checks are captured as they enter the ATM, without the need for deposit envelopes, and checks are validated at the ATM and transmitted electronically to the credit union for processing. In addition, credit union members receive detailed receipts with printed images of checks they've deposited. The new ATMs accept up to 100 mixed bills at a time, without a deposit envelope, and can verify denominations and provide detailed receipts, including currency counts. The machines can even detect counterfeit notes. Throughout the year the credit union plans to upgrade some 30 machines throughout its network of branches.

Source: <http://www.charleston.net/assets/webPages/departmental/news/Stories.aspx?section=businessreview&tableId=124808&pubDate=1/1/2007>

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Transportation and Border Security Sector

14. *January 02, Associated Press* — **Survey: 2006 was good year for aviation safety.** The number of air crashes around the world in 2006 was the lowest in 53 years, making it one of the safest in aviation history, an independent watchdog said Tuesday, January 2. Last year saw 156 crashes, compared with 178 in 2005, the Aircraft Crashes Record Office said in a statement. The Geneva-based organization said 1,292 people died in plane crashes in 2006 — a drop of 11 percent on the previous year. The deadliest accident was the downing of a Tupolev TU-154 in Ukraine in August, in which 170 people lost their lives. While the largest number of fatalities usually occurs when a large, jet-powered plane crashes, three quarters of accidents last year involved smaller, propeller-powered planes.
Aircraft Crashes Record Office: <http://www.baaa-acro.com/>
Source: <http://www.usatoday.com/travel/news/2007-01-02-aviation-safe ty x.htm>
15. *January 02, USA TODAY* — **Travel to Canada, Mexico is about to change with new passport rules.** On January 23, air travelers to and from Canada, Mexico, and the Caribbean will for the first time need a passport to cross the U.S. border. Starting in the spring, all U.S. citizens applying for a passport will get an electronic version that's embedded with a "smart" chip designed to thwart forgery. The new regulations represent the most significant changes in border control in years, as federal officials try to bring the process of checking identification into the digital age. Many people heading to Canada, Mexico and the Caribbean now travel with just a driver's license for identification. Under the new rule, U.S. citizens traveling by air need a passport. Also, the Nexus Air card, issued under a USA-Canada cooperative program to prescreened travelers, is acceptable. The passport rule will apply to land and sea travelers no later than June 1, 2009. For Americans who don't want to pay \$97 for a passport, the Department of State also plans by the end of 2007 to introduce a "passport card" that would work like a passport. The card, which costs \$20 for adults, is good only for those traveling by land or sea to Canada, Mexico and the Caribbean.
Source: <http://www.usatoday.com/travel/news/2007-01-01-passport x.htm>
16. *January 02, CBS4 (MA)* — **Man tries to open plane door on Logan-bound flight.** A 20-year-old Wyoming man will be in East Boston district court after he allegedly tried to open the door of a JetBlue plane mid-flight Monday morning, January 1. According to officials, Jesse Boyd was subdued by passengers and flight attendants. He was then placed in hand cuffs for the remainder of the flight. Officers placed him under arrest when the plane touched down. The flight took off from Pittsburgh and was headed toward Boston. Boyd will be charged with disorderly conduct and assault and battery.
Source: http://cbs4boston.com/topstories/local_story_001230424.html
17. *December 30, Business North (MN)* — **Michigan ballast water law could halt international ships to the Twin Ports.** Michigan will require foreign ships to get a permit before it can travel on its waters. Designed to stop invasive species carried in ballast water, it could stop salties from reaching Lake Superior. This is the first time a state is trying to regulate Great Lakes waters...and there's some question if the law requiring clean ballast water will hold up in court. The law, which takes effect January 1, requires that the best available technology to clean ballast water be used in the foreign ships or Michigan won't allow it in its waters. Duluth Port Authority official Jim Sharrow doesn't think the law will stop the 150 or so salties that call on his port every year...even though they have to go through Michigan waters to get to Lake

Superior. "It may deter some vessels from the Lakes. It may shift some cargoes away from Michigan but we don't expect any direct impact on our own harbor here." ("Essentially yes it will effect other ports. they won't be able to get through Michigan waters without a permit." That's bill sponsor Michigan State Senator Patty Birkholz. She says the Great Lakes eco-system is at a tipping point and the invasion of foreign fish, plants, and microbes must be stopped.

Source: <http://www.businessnorth.com/kuws.asp?RID=1749>

18. *December 30, Reuters* — **Ice breaks in Canada; may pose a shipping peril.** A chunk of ice that once was bigger in area than Manhattan broke from an ice shelf in Canada's far north and could cause havoc if it starts to float westward toward oil-drilling regions and shipping lanes next summer, a researcher said on Friday, December 29. Global warming may be one cause of the break of the Ayles Ice Shelf at Ellesmere Island, which occurred in August 2005, but was detected only recently by satellite photos, said Luke Copland, assistant professor at the University of Ottawa. It was the largest such break in nearly three decades, casting an ice floe with an area of 25 square miles adrift in the Arctic Ocean, said Copland, who specializes in the study of glaciers and ice masses. The mass is 19 square miles. "The risk is that next summer, as that sea ice melts, this large ice island can then move itself around off the coast and one potential path for it is to make its way westward toward the Beaufort Sea, and the Beaufort Sea is where there is lots of oil and gas exploration, oil rigs, and shipping."

Source: http://www.boston.com/news/world/articles/2006/12/30/ice_breaks_in_canada_may_pose_a_shipping_peril/

19. *December 30, CNN* — **ETA claim in Madrid airport blast.** A powerful car bomb explosion at Spain's busiest airport Saturday, December 30, was claimed by Basque separatist group ETA, officials said, casting doubt over a tentative cease-fire which earlier this year ended a decades-long bloody independence campaign. Several people suffered minor injuries in the parking lot blast, which followed a warning to police, who were able to evacuate terminal four at Madrid's Barajas International Airport. Two calls were received by police, a Spanish interior ministry official said, the first a warning, the second specifying the type of car and claiming it was the work of ETA. Terminal four, which serves Iberia Airlines and its partners, has been closed, although the airports three other terminals are still operating, the official said. Barajas airport is Spain's busiest, handling more than 40 million passengers a year, according to the airport's official Website.

Source: <http://www.cnn.com/2006/WORLD/europe/12/30/madrid.blast/index.html>

20. *December 29, Reuters* — **Bush signs new U.S. pipeline safety legislation.** President George W. Bush signed into law Friday, December 29, legislation aimed at preventing the kind of runaway corrosion that plagued low pressure pipelines at the huge Prudhoe Bay oil field in Alaska, which had been exempt from federal oversight. The Pipeline Inspection, Protection, Enforcement and Safety Act of 2006 extends the Department of Transportation's oversight to include oil and gas pipelines operating at low pressures. Previous legislation had only required federal oversight of high pressure pipelines.

Source: http://today.reuters.com/news/articleinvesting.aspx?type=bondNews&storyID=2006-12-29T191143Z_01_N29258094_RTRIDST_0_PIPELINE-LEGISLATION-BUSH.XML

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Postal and Shipping Sector

21. *January 03, Business Times (Malaysia)* — DHL sets new benchmark for security standards.

Air express and logistics service provider DHL (owned by Deutsche Post World Net) has managed an industry's first by having over 100 facilities in Asia-Pacific certified with a Technology Asset Protection Association (Tapa) license. No other global express and logistics company has as many Tapa certified facilities in the region. The certification is an industry security accreditation done by independent Tapa-trained and accredited auditors. Accreditation is awarded to facilities that meet the security standards for handling high-value technology goods in supply chains, upon successfully completing a rigorous and detailed audit. DHL's main gateway facilities at the KL International Airport in Sepang, Subang and Penang are all fully Tapa certified. The Tapa certification achievement complements many other high-technology security and quality systems that have been implemented across its network in Asia-Pacific. This includes the DHL Quality Control Centers.

Source: http://www.btimes.com.my/Current_News/BT/Monday/Corporate/BT601783.txt/Article/

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Agriculture Sector

22. *January 02, Benton Crier (CO)* — Haylift starts to save snowbound cattle. Colorado

launched a haylift Tuesday, January 2, to try to save thousands of cattle stranded by 10-foot-high snowdrifts left after back-to-back blizzards paralyzed life on the Plains. Colorado National Guard troops and state workers planned to drop hay bales into pastures. The livestock situation was grave in Colorado as the state competed with Kansas to find enough helicopters capable of hauling hay bales that weigh up to 1,300 pounds, Department of Agriculture Executive Director Don Ament said. He said many of the state's cargo helicopters are in the Middle East. "These cattle have already gone a number of days without food and water. They're just going to lay over dead if we don't do something soon," Ament said. Pilots headed for herds mapped the previous day by spotter planes, said Capt. Robert Bell, a Guard spokesperson. They had to deal with snow whipped up by their rotors, and searched for level, hard-packed spots to set down, but were more likely to be forced to simply drop the feed, he said.

Source: <http://www.localnewswatch.com/benton/stories/index.php?action=fullnews&id=38942>

23. *January 01, Associated Press* — Industry, government join E. coli fight. In light of food poisoning outbreaks involving spinach and lettuce, the government and the produce industry are scrambling to make leafy greens safer before the spring planting season. New guidelines from the industry are due in April on how to prevent contamination throughout the food chain, from before greens are planted until they reach the dinner table. Members of Congress are asking federal agencies to report on what went wrong and how to fix the problem. Some lawmakers want to replace the patchwork system of federal food regulation with a single agency in charge

of what people eat. States are active, too. In California, where most of the nation's green leafy vegetables are grown, farmers are poised to approve new labeling by March for farms that follow stricter practices for raising greens. In New Jersey, where small family farms were hurt by a nationwide spinach ban right at the start of September's harvest, the state has set up a task force to improve produce safety. The spinach outbreak killed three people and sickened more than 200. An E. coli outbreak linked to lettuce sickened dozens of people who ate at Taco Bell and Taco John's restaurants.

Source: <http://abcnews.go.com/Business/wireStory?id=2762454>

24. *December 31, Agricultural Research Service* — **Researchers evaluate prion-free cattle.** The Agricultural Research Service (ARS) scientists evaluated cattle that have been genetically modified so they do not produce prions, and determined that there were no observable adverse effects on the animals' health. "These cattle can help in the exploration and improved understanding of how prions function and cause disease, especially with relation to bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE)," said Edward Knippling, administrator of ARS. "In particular, cattle lacking the gene that produces prions can help scientists test the resistance to prion propagation, not only in the laboratory, but in live animals as well." Prions are proteins that are naturally produced in animals. An abnormal form of prion is believed to cause devastating illnesses called transmissible spongiform encephalopathies, or TSEs, the best known of which is BSE. Further testing will take at least three years to complete.

Source: <http://www.ars.usda.gov/News/docs.htm?docid=1261>

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Food Sector

25. *December 28, Purdue University* — **Technique quickly identifies bacteria for food safety.** Researchers at Purdue University have used a new technique to rapidly detect and precisely identify bacteria, including E. coli, without time-consuming treatments usually required. The technique, called desorption electrospray ionization (DESI), could be used to create a new class of fast, accurate detectors for applications ranging from food safety to homeland security, said R. Graham Cooks, of Purdue's College of Science. Using a mass spectrometer to analyze bacteria and other microorganisms ordinarily takes several hours and requires that samples be specially treated and prepared in a lengthy series of steps. DESI eliminates the pretreatment steps, enabling researchers to take "fingerprints" of bacteria in less than a minute using a mass spectrometer. New findings show how the Purdue researchers used the method to detect living, untreated bacteria, including E. coli and Salmonella typhimurium. Purdue researchers are focusing on three potential applications for detecting and identifying pathogens: food safety, medical analysis and homeland security. The researchers are able to detect one nanogram, or a billionth of a gram, of a particular bacterium. More importantly, the method enables researchers to identify a particular bacterium down to its subspecies, a level of accuracy needed to detect and track infectious pathogens.

Source: <http://news.uns.purdue.edu/UNS/html4ever/2006/061228CooksBacteria.html>

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Water Sector

26. *January 01, Kansas City Star (KS)* — **Restoration of Kansas lakes could help preserve reservoirs for drinking water, officials say.** Kansas lakes are shrinking — filling up with sediment that could threaten some of the state's best sources of recreation and drinking water. University of Kansas (KU) researchers announced recently that some of the state's lakes are filling with silt so fast it will take many millions of dollars to address the problem. Mark Jakubauskas, a KU professor and leader of the Applied Science and Technology for Reservoir Assessment Initiative, which conducted the research, said that although the depth of Kansas lakes might not sound like a critical issue, if not addressed, it could have a very real impact on the half of the state that relies on the lakes and reservoirs for water. The sediment is carried from farms and stream banks by the rivers flowing into the lakes. Ordinarily, some of the sediment would be carried into the Kansas River. But because outflow is carefully controlled by dams, much of the sediment accumulates on the lake beds. The solution for the reservoirs calls for dredging the lakes to remove the material. The largest lakes are overseen by the federal government, so any comprehensive solution would have to involve both state and federal money.

Source: <http://www.kansascity.com/mld/kansascity/news/16359792.htm>

27. *December 26, Business North (MN)* — **Cities drilling for worst case water scenario.** Fifty of Wisconsin's largest communities have taken part in drills in the unthinkable scenario that terrorists have contaminated their water supplies. Madison, Green Bay, Ashland, Milwaukee, and LaCrosse are among the communities that sent health, law enforcement, and elected officials to play a table-top exercise of "our water supply has been poisoned." Department of Natural Resources Water Security Coordinator Steve Elmore says it's important a plan is in place. "We're looking at the processes that are in place for responding to an event," he said. So a \$300,000 U.S. Environmental Protection Agency grant is paying the state to teach towns and cities how to deal with a bad water supply. According to Elmore, "People take tap water for granted. They think it should be clean and safe to drink. So you do have a big component of trying to reassure the public and make sure they know what's going on and what to do with the water, if they should be drinking it or if they shouldn't be drinking it."

Source: <http://www.businessnorth.com/kuws.asp?RID=1745>

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Public Health Sector

28. *January 02, American Thoracic Society* — **Change in guidelines could help eliminate tuberculosis in the U.S.** To eliminate tuberculosis (TB) in the U.S., current guidelines should be changed to reclassify all foreign-born residents from high-incidence countries as "high-risk," regardless of the amount of time they have lived in the U.S. Kevin Cain, of the Division of Tuberculosis Elimination at the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and seven associates collected data on all 2004 TB cases listed in the U.S. National TB Surveillance database. The investigators' aim was to understand why the number of annual cases of TB reported in U.S.-born persons declined by 93 percent from 1993 to 2004, while foreign-born cases increased by five percent. Present guidelines recommend only those

residing in the U.S. for five years or less be targeted for tuberculin skin testing and treatment of latent TB infection. "Twenty-five percent of all reported TB cases in the U.S. are among foreign-born persons who have lived in the U.S. for more than five years," said Cain. "There is no policy to test foreign-born persons for latent TB infection before entering the U.S., or to test them after they have lived here for more than five years. As such, present guidelines do not currently address the burden of latent TB infection in the foreign-born subgroup."

Source: <http://www.infectioncontrolday.com/hotnews/71h2717112059.html>

29. *January 02, CBC News (Canada)* — Superbug at Canada's doorstep, doctors warn.

Community-associated methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (CA-MRSA), was previously confined to hospitals but epidemics are occurring in the U.S. and it's making inroads in Canada. The bacteria cause large boil-like infections, and can cause hemorrhagic pneumonia or flesh-eating disease in rare cases. The organism is an "old foe with new fangs: a pathogen combining virulence, resistance and an ability to disseminate at large," John Conly, an infectious disease specialist and professor of medicine at the University of Calgary and his colleagues said. In the U.S., clusters of infections have been reported among professional baseball and football players, and toddlers in day care. So far in Canada, outbreaks have occurred in British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba and Ontario, with infections reported in Toronto, Montreal and Quebec City. Two fatalities in Canada have also been linked to the germ.

CA-MRSA information: http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dhqp/ar_mrsa_ca.html

Source: <http://www.cbc.ca/health/story/2007/01/02/mrsa-superbug.html>

30. *December 31, Yonhap News (South Korea)* — North Korea builds hospital ward for possible human cases of bird flu.

North Korea has completed building a hospital ward to forestall the possible human transmission of bird flu with the help of the World Health Organization, a pro-Pyongyang newspaper in Japan said Sunday, December 31. The global health watchdog has supported North Korea's efforts to build the isolated ward inside a Pyongyang hospital since June, said the Chosun Sinbo, published by the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan. North Korea suffered an outbreak of avian influenza among poultry at several chicken farms in Pyongyang in early 2005. Each room in the new ward has a glass wall, from which the medical staff can examine the patients without fear of possible infection. The rooms are also equipped with emergency phones, separate doors for medical staff and ventilation systems.

Source: <http://english.yonhapnews.co.kr/Engnews/20061231/610000000020061231201850E5.html>

31. *December 18, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory* — Study finds the air rich with bacteria.

The air could be teeming with more than 1,800 types of bacteria, according to a first-of-its-kind census of airborne microbes recently conducted by scientists from the U.S. Department of Energy's Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory. The team used an innovative DNA test to catalog the bacteria in air samples taken from the Texas cities of San Antonio and Austin. Surprisingly, they found a widely varied bacterial population that rivals the diversity found in soil. They also found naturally occurring relatives of microbes that could be used in bioterrorist attacks. The research paves the way for regional bacterial censuses that will help a Department of Homeland Security bioterrorism surveillance program differentiate between normal and suspicious fluctuations in airborne pathogens.

Source: <http://www.lbl.gov/Science-Articles/Archive/ESD-air-bacteria.html>

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Government Sector

Nothing to report.

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Emergency Services Sector

32. *January 02, News Journal (DE)* — **Delaware's new evacuation plan for Sussex County focuses on tourists.** With such growth in Sussex County, DE, as well as its popularity as a tourist destination, state officials are searching for ways to reach everyone who could be affected by a new evacuation plan. The plan, created by state transportation officials, points out the strengths and weaknesses in the existing road system, where traffic bottlenecks could occur, and coordinates evacuation efforts among state and local agencies. One of the first priorities, though, has been to come up with a comprehensive plan for Sussex County that is mostly geared to coastal storms and hurricanes. Among the concerns for Sussex County are the traffic volumes at the beach and the number of people who visit from out of town. The area is different from other parts of Delaware because many people are visitors who may not monitor radio or television broadcasts while on vacation. How to notify visitors of emergencies in a timely fashion and how to prevent people who haven't arrived from heading to the beach are key issues in Sussex.

Sussex County evacuation plan: <http://www.delawareonline.com/assets/pdf/BL5578412.PDF>

Source: <http://www.delawareonline.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20070102/NEWS/701020351/1006/NEWS>

33. *January 01, National Defense* — **Pentagon, first responders share communications needs.** The military and civilian emergency responder communities share an overlapping need for enhanced communication technologies. The Homeland Security Act of 2002 covers emergency-response personnel from federal, state and local sectors, including specialists in hazardous materials response, urban search and rescue, anti-terrorism, special weapons and tactics, ordnance disposal, emergency management and others. The civilian first-responder community has communications needs similar to those of the military services. Just like the military, emergency responders must see, understand and act in challenging environments. In fact, a 2002 study by the National Research Council, entitled "Army Science and Technology for Homeland Security," found that proper management of a disaster site — like a military operation — requires thorough coordination of all aspects of command, control, communications and other forms of data gathering and analysis. Given the broad scope of their assignments, first responders could gain significant advantages by employing military-style command, control communications, intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance technologies that would link them into a system of systems similar to the Army's. Although military services and civilian responders can benefit by sharing communications technologies, actually doing so remains a daunting challenge.

Source: <http://www.nationaldefensemagazine.org/issues/2007/January/GovernmentPolicy.htm>

34. *December 31, Washington Post* — Localities operate intelligence centers to pool terror data. Frustrated by poor federal cooperation, U.S. states and cities are building their own network of intelligence centers led by police to help detect and disrupt terrorist plots. The new "fusion centers" are now operating in 37 states and the Washington, DC, area, according to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). The centers pool and analyze information from local, state and federal law enforcement officials. The emerging "network of networks" marks a new era of opportunity for law enforcement, according to U.S. officials and homeland security experts. Police are hungry for federal intelligence in an age of homegrown terrorism and more sophisticated crime. For their part, federal law enforcement officials could benefit from a potential army of tipsters — the 700,000 local and state police officers across the country, as well as private security guards and others being courted by the centers. But the emerging model of "intelligence-led policing" faces risks on all sides. The centers are popping up with little federal leadership and training. The centers also face practical obstacles that could limit their effectiveness, including a shortage of money, skilled analysts, and proven relationships with the FBI and DHS.

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2006/12/30/AR2006123000238.html>

35. *December 29, Times Argus (VT)* — Vermont: First state to have E911 system completely based on IP. As of Monday, January 1, Vermont will lead the country in emergency response systems, implementing a new enhanced 911 (E911) system based upon Internet technology. E911 means that even if a caller does not know his or her address, the system shows a mapped location for the emergency call-taker, who could then dispatch a call to the nearest emergency response team. That system has now gone digital, adding many new features. With the new system E911 call-takers will have access to all kinds of information about a caller, including combinations to gate locks and any prior history a caller has with 911. But the best part is that the call centers are potentially mobile. "We can bring up call centers anywhere there's a lot of bandwidth," said Jim Lipinski, information technology manager of VT E911. It's called "call center in a box" because all a person needs is the training, a laptop and enough bandwidth to process the information coming through. Beginning with 2007, Vermont will be the first state to have an E911 system completely based on Internet Protocol (IP), opening doors to vast possibilities for emergency management.

Source: <http://timesargus.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20061229/NEWS02/612290342/1003/NEWS02>

36. *December 29, Federal Emergency Management Agency* — President declares major disaster for Missouri, Oregon, and Illinois. The head of the Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) announced, Friday, December 29, that federal disaster aid has been made available for Missouri to supplement state and local recovery efforts in the area struck by severe winter storms during the period of November 30 to December 2, 2006. FEMA also announced Friday that federal disaster aid has been made available for Oregon to supplement state and local recovery efforts in the area struck by severe storms, flooding, landslides, and mudslides during the period of November 5–8, 2006. In addition, on Friday FEMA announced that federal aid has been made available for Illinois to supplement state and local response efforts in the area struck by record snow during the period of November 30 to December 1, 2006.

For further detail on Missouri: <http://www.fema.gov/news/event.fema?id=7386>

For further detail on Oregon: <http://www.fema.gov/news/event.fema?id=7385>

For further detail on Illinois: <http://www.fema.gov/news/event.fema?id=7387>

Source: <http://www.fema.gov/news/disasters.fema>

37. *December 28, Business Review (NY)* — Fuel cells to be used at New York police facilities.

The New York State Police and New York Power Authority will deploy fuel cells at 22 state police public safety communications facilities as part of a \$434,000 Fuel Cells for Emergency Communications program. The fuel cells will provide backup power at the facilities. "These fuel-cell installations will keep state communications online when they are often needed the most, during power outages and other emergency situations," said Timothy Carey, New York Power Authority's president and chief executive.

Source: <http://albany.bizjournals.com/albany/stories/2006/12/25/daily30.html>

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Information Technology and Telecommunications Sector

38. *January 02, IDG News Service* — Alcatel-Lucent completes buy of Nortel 3G business.

Alcatel-Lucent SA has closed its acquisition of Nortel Networks Corp.'s Universal Mobile Telecommunications System (UMTS) mobile infrastructure business, the companies announced Tuesday, January 2. Alcatel-Lucent announced plans to buy the third-generation (3G) networks business in September for \$320 million less transaction costs. It has cleared the final regulatory approvals and closed the purchase on December 31, it said. The deal makes Alcatel-Lucent one of the largest providers of UMTS gear, with one in four UMTS operators worldwide using its products, the company said.

Source: http://www.infoworld.com/article/07/01/02/HNalcatelnortel_1.html

39. *January 02, Agence France-Presse* — Emergency measures in Hong Kong after Web

chaos. Hong Kong telecom authorities have assumed emergency powers as firms faced Internet disruption on the first day back to work Tuesday, January 2, after an earthquake damaged regional undersea data cables. Telecom and Internet service providers sent the city's telecom authority OFTA hourly updates on service capacity as repair ships struggled to mend fiber optic cables severed in the Boxing Day quake off Taiwan. OFTA had received only 20 inquiries from Internet users by mid-morning, suggesting that services had not been hit as hard as had been feared. By the close of business OFTA said traffic had moved smoothly and there had been no reports of serious congestion.

Source: http://news.yahoo.com/s/afp/20070102/tc_afp/asiaquakeinternet

40. *January 01, eWeek* — Apple vulnerability project launches with QuickTime exploit.

An easy-to-exploit security vulnerability in Apple Computer's QuickTime media player could put millions of Macintosh and Windows users at risk of code execution attacks. The QuickTime flaw kicked off the Month of Apple Bugs project, which promises to expose unpatched Mac OS X and Apple application vulnerabilities on a daily basis throughout the month of January. According to an advisory released Monday, January 1, the flaw exists in the way QuickTime handles a specially rigged "rtsp://" URL. "By supplying a specially crafted string, [an] attacker could overflow a stack-based buffer, using either HTML, Javascript or a QTL file as attack

vector, leading to an exploitable remote arbitrary code execution condition," said LMH, one of the mysterious hackers behind the controversial project. He described exploitation of the issue as "trivial" and warned that stack NX can also be rendered useless. LMH said the issue was successfully exploited in QuickTime Player Version 7.1.3. Previous versions are likely vulnerable as well. Both Microsoft Windows and Mac OS X versions are affected.

Source: <http://www.eweek.com/article2/0.1895.2078180.00.asp>

41. *December 29, IDG News Service* — **'Happy New Year!' worm on the move.** Verisign Inc. is warning of a new e-mail worm arriving in inboxes with the subject "Happy New Year!" The message, currently being spread from 160 e-mail domains, requires users to click on the attached "postcard.exe" file in order to cause damage. The file will install several different malicious code variants including Tibs, Nwar, Banwarum and Glowa on the computer. It then executes mass mailings from the infected computer. The worm is already being heavily spammed, Verisign said. The security company has found one network that is sending out five e-mails per second with the worm.

Source: http://www.infoworld.com/article/06/12/29/HNhappynewyearworm_1.html

42. *December 29, Associated Press* — **Taiwan telecom won't build additional backup.** Taiwan's largest telecom company said Friday, December 29, it will not invest more in backup lines to protect against disasters like the recent earthquake that snarled telephone and Internet service across Asia, affecting service as far away as the United States. The quake, which damaged undersea cables off Taiwan on Tuesday, was so rare that there is no need to spend money on extra lines, said Wu Chih-ming, a senior official at Chunghwa Telecom Co., Taiwan's largest telecommunications company. "We won't consider laying more backup cables for now because such an incident might not happen in another 100 years," Wu said.

Source: http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20061229/ap_on_hi_te/asia_telecom_crisis

43. *December 29, Reuters* — **AT&T clears final hurdle to \$86 billion BellSouth deal.** AT&T Inc. on Friday, December 29, cleared the final U.S. regulatory hurdle to acquire local telephone carrier BellSouth Corp., bolstering the company's position as the top U.S. telephone provider. The Federal Communications Commission voted 4-0 to approve the \$86 billion deal after AT&T promised to maintain "network neutrality" on its broadband platform for two years and not impose extra fees to carry certain providers' Internet content.

Source: <http://www.eweek.com/article2/0.1895.2078071.00.asp>

44. *December 28, IDG News Service* — **Alliance Data to buy another DoubleClick division.** Transaction services provider Alliance Data Systems Corp. is to buy DoubleClick Inc.'s Abacus data management and analytical division for around \$435 million in cash. It will be the second time within a year that Alliance Data has purchased technology from the privately-held online advertising firm.

Source: http://www.infoworld.com/article/06/12/28/HNallianceduobleclick_1.html

Internet Alert Dashboard

Current Port Attacks

Top 10 Target Ports	6881 (bittorrent), 1026 (win-rpc), 25 (smtp), 2967 (ssc-agent), 4672 (eMule), 4662 (eDonkey2000), 80 (www), 1027 (icq), 139 (netbios-ssn), 1433 (ms-sql-s)
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Source: <http://isc.incidents.org/top10.html>; Internet Storm Center

To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at soc@us-cert.gov or visit their Website: www.us-cert.gov.

Information on IT information sharing and analysis can be found at the IT ISAC (Information Sharing and Analysis Center) Website: <https://www.it-isac.org/>.

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Commercial Facilities/Real Estate, Monument & Icons Sector

45. *December 28, New York Times* — Hotel closed after a guest dies and more are taken ill. Fire officials shut down an upscale hotel in Key West, FL, on Wednesday, December 27, after a guest died and his father was hospitalized because of possible carbon monoxide poisoning, a report released Thursday, December 28, by the police said. Last week, three people staying in the same fourth-floor room of the hotel, the Doubletree Grand Key Resort, were taken away by ambulance, but the police report listed the cause of their illness as food poisoning. In the episode on Wednesday, Thomas Lueders, 26, and Richard Lueders, 53, of Grosse Point Park, MI, were taken from the hotel to Lower Keys Medical Center after emergency officials received a 911 call. Thomas Lueders was pronounced dead on arrival, said a hospital spokesperson, Randy Detrick. Six other hotel guests showed mild symptoms on Wednesday and were also treated at the hospital, Detrick said. The police and hotel officials would not confirm whether carbon monoxide poisoning had caused Thomas Lueders's death or discuss any other details. But the report released Thursday by the Key West Police Department cited "possible carbon monoxide poisoning" and said the boiler on the hotel's fourth floor had been sealed after the reports of illness.

Source: <http://www.nytimes.com/2006/12/29/us/29west.html>

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General Sector

46. *January 01, Associated Press* — Bombs stun Bangkok on New Year's Eve. Thailand's prime minister said Monday, January 1, that supporters of the country's toppled regime rather than Muslim insurgents were likely behind the bombings that killed three people and canceled New Year's Eve festivities for thousands of revelers. The nine bombs that exploded across Bangkok on New Year's Eve and early Monday also wounded 38 people, including nine foreigners. The bombings capped a year of unrest in Thailand, including a military coup three months ago and an increasingly violent Muslim insurgency in the south. Nobody has claimed responsibility for the attacks. The first six bomb blasts rocked Bangkok around 6 p.m. local time on New Year's Eve, killing at least two people and injuring more than 20. The small bombs — in some cases triggered by clocks and placed in garbage cans — went off within an hour of each other around the city.

Source: http://www.usatoday.com/news/world/2006-12-31-thailand-bomb_x.htm

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